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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

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OPINION MAKERS

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Hughes Gives Palestine, Democracy Messages in Cairo, Riyadh
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NATO Headquarters Inaugurated in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
ICG: Draft Constitution Will Lead Iraq to Civil War - Yeni
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Sharon Wins First Round at Likud Congress - Cumhuriyet
Second Israeli Attempt to Occupy Jerusalem - Radikal
UN: Israel Expands Settlements - Yeni Safak
US Underestimates Gitmo Hunger Strikes - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Hughes in Ankara: US Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy, Karen Hughes, arrived in Ankara Tuesday night, papers report. Hughes will meet with Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Undersecretary Ali Tuygan and representatives of nongovernmental organizations in Ankara today. "Zaman" reports that KA-DER, a Turkish NGO involved in women's issues and problems, responded to an invitation by the US Embassy to meet with Undersecretary Hughes, saying they would also like to raise at the meeting issues such as Iraq and President Bush's policies toward women. A KA-DER representative told the paper that they do not want the meeting to be seen as one in which the US and the Turkish NGO are 'hugging' one other. 'We are not the nice girls of the neighborhood. We are political women,' the KA-DER member said. Turkey's prestigious all-news channel NTV reported Wednesday that Undersecretary Hughes called on the MFA Undersecretary Tuygan this morning. Tuygan expressed to Hughes the 'disappointment' of the Turkish nation with regard to 'expectations' from the US and about developments related to Turkey's EU membership bid. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Hughes condemned the terrorist activities of the PKK, stressing that the US is determined to do more on the issue. Hughes added that the US strongly supports Turkey's EU aspirations. 'The US and Turkey need each other,' Hughes noted. Following her talks in Ankara, Hughes will move on to Istanbul to meet with representatives of the various religious communities, NTV reported.

McEldowney on EU/Turkey, Cyprus, New US Ambassador: US Charge d'Affaires Nancy McEldowney said at a reception on Tuesday that Turkey has done its part with regard to EU membership, and that now it is the EU's turn to do its job, "Tercuman" reports. 'We have supported Turkey's EU membership in the best way we could. Europe has its own problems. Who could have guessed that the EU constitution would be rejected in the referenda? Some European countries such as France, Germany and the Netherlands project their own problems on to Turkey, and try to resolve issues in that way,' McEldowney said. She noted that Turkey should not

have immediate expectations regarding the PKK and Cyprus: 'Everything should be done step by step. The US is the country that has taken the most interest in the Cyprus issue. We have made a 30 million USD investment in Cyprus, and have organized trips to northern Cyprus directly from Turkey. No country other than the United States has been interested in Cyprus to that extent.' McEldowney also underlined the significance of the visit of Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy, Karen Hughes, to Ankara. 'Hughes meets with President Bush every morning and every evening. She briefs the President. Her visit to Turkey is extremely important,' McEldowney stressed. Asked about the delay in appointing a US Ambassador to Ankara, McEldowney said: 'I can tell you honestly that there is no problem. It is not intentional. I have said before that such assignments can take as long as a year. A US ambassador will certainly be appointed to Turkey.'

EU Asks Turkey to Recognize Cyprus, Armenian Genocide: On Wednesday, the European Parliament backed the opening of EU accession talks with Turkey on October 3, but insisted that Ankara recognize Cyprus and a 'genocide' of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey during the negotiations. The motion on Turkey's EU drive received the backing of 356 European MPs, while 181 voted against and 125 abstained. Some MPs also asked that Turkey's acknowledgment of the Armenian 'genocide' be a precondition for full EU membership. On Wednesday, Turkey reaffirmed that full membership in the European bloc is the only outcome it will accept. 'Any deviation from full membership is totally unacceptable,' Foreign Ministry Spokesman Namik Tan told a weekly news briefing. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said yesterday that he will not travel to Luxembourg next Monday for the opening of entry talks if the negotiating framework now under discussion contains 'unacceptable elements' for Turkey.

Erdogan on Iraq: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in Oman on a state visit, said in Muscat that things 'are not going as desired' in Iraq. 'Iraq needs a constitution which includes not just the Kurds and the Shites but also the Sunnis, Turkmen, and Arabs. It should clarify that all the resources of Iraq belong to all groups in the country,' Erdogan said.

Anti-Terror Meeting in Ankara: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul chaired on Tuesday the Anti-Terror High Board meeting in Ankara. The Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) will carry out campaigns to block international support for terror groups, and the Finance Ministry will work to cut the financial flow to the PKK, particularly funds coming from Europe. Ankara will also seek cooperation with the US in the fight against terrorism. The government will implement measures to curb unemployment in east and southeast Turkey and to boost economic development in the region. A Turkish intelligence report discussed at the meeting claimed that the PKK, taking advantage of the unrest in Iraq, had managed to smuggle 1,200 kg of C-4 explosives into Turkey in the last two years. According to the report, fundamentalist organizations like the Hizbullah and IBDA-C in Turkey were only working to recruit militants rather than carrying out attacks.

US Forces Detain a Turk in Mosul: "Radikal" reports that US forces in Mosul detained Gunay Soyer, a Turk working at a gas station in Mosul, for spying after he was caught at the top of a US radar tower. "Serka," Soyer's employing company in Incirlik, Adana confirmed the detention. Soyer's brother told "Radikal" that 'a person from the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA)' called the family in Adana to confirm the detention, but he did not elaborate on what will happen next. Soyer has been sent to a prison in Baghdad where insurgents are held, according to the report.

CHP Lawmaker Resigns from Party: Sevket Gursoy, a lawmaker from the southeastern province of Adiyaman, resigned from the main opposition CHP on Wednesday, reducing the number of CHP seats in parliament to 157. The distribution of seats in the parliament is as follows: AKP 355, CHP 157, ANAP 17, DYP 4, SHP 4, HYP 1, Independent 8, and Vacant 1.

EDITORIAL OPINION: U/S Hughes

"Bush Advisor Trying to Win our Hearts"
Yasemin Congar wrote in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" from Washington (9/28): "Despite her experience in domestic politics, Under Secretary of State Karen Hughes is not very experienced in diplomacy. She is in Turkey on the last stop of her tour to win the hearts of Muslims. She has been tasked to improve President Bush's image around the world, especially in the Muslim world. Karen Hughes has worked as Bush's advisor since his days as the Governor of Texas. Hughes coordinated Bush's press relations, especially during his election campaigns. After three years away from the White House, Hughes started her first trip abroad in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Hughes' visit to Ankara and Istanbul is mainly for the purpose of 'listening and learning.' Karen

Hughes is a former TV correspondent and, with her powerful voice, she is an expert in addressing the people. She is very new, however, in the field of foreign policy and diplomacy. Press members traveling with her didn't hesitate to mention her inexperience. According to news given by the traveling press, Hughes was given official notes to remind her that 'Turkey is a democratic state,' and 'Egypt has the biggest population in the region.' It was reflected in the American press that, due to her lack of knowledge, she couldn't answer the question of whether she was going to meet with the Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo. The Washington Post wrote that Hughes was left speechless by the question, then turned to her aid for help. Only after one of her aides whispered in her ear was she able to respond that 'we will respect Egyptian law.' Hughes will reportedly meet Religious Affairs Director Ali Bardakoglu and Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul.

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